

Jaggard Building
(Klevan Building)
1300-02 11th Avenue
Intown Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5509

HABS

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JAGGARD BUILDING

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Location: 1300-02 11th Ave. (northwest corner of 13th Street and 11th Avenue), Altoona, Blair County, Pa.

Present Owner: H. F. H. Enterprises, c/o Harry Fouse, R. D. 2, Hollidaysburg, Pa.

Present Use: Altoona's visitors' information center and a store occupy the first floor. The second and third floors are vacant.

Significance: The Jaggard Building is good example of the kind of brick commercial buildings that were constructed by Altoona's wealthiest businessmen in the 1870s. It is also one of the few remaining nineteenth-century commercial structures to retain its original appearance, although the first-floor storefront is new, the result of a recent restoration. Erected ca. 1873-76 to house the dry goods store of merchant Clement Jaggard (the exclusive agent for John Wright in the disposition of Altoona's original lots), the building was once attached to a row of similar, three-story brick stores that have been demolished. The Jaggard Building was later occupied by the offices of the Railroad Men's Christian Association, one of the examples of benevolent paternalism offered workers by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1873-76. The building can date no earlier than 1873, when Clement Jaggard was first assessed for a brick building in Altoona's Third Ward. It was definitely standing by 1876, when the Railroad Men's Christian Association opened a reading room on the second floor.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Jaggard purchased the lot from his father-in-law, John Wright, in 1858. The sale, which included several other parcels of land--some on 13th and 8th Avenues--amounted to \$4,658. (Deed Book I/170) In 1890 most of Jaggard's estate passed to Clara J. Pugh (probably his daughter), who sold the building to Phillip Klevan, a longtime tenant, in 1941. (Deed Book 461/294) The Jaggard Building was sold to the present owner in 1986 for \$25,000.
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Unknown.
5. Original plans and construction: Originally, the building was about 60' long--one half of its present length. The extant roof framing, and 1882 and 1888 maps suggest that originally Nos. 1300 and 1302 were two attached buildings that shared a party wall, but had separately framed roofs and separate entrances. By 1878, No. 1300 housed Clement Jaggard's dry goods business on the first floor, and "halls, etc." on the second and third. The original plan has been obscured by numerous nineteenth- and twentieth-century renovations.
6. Alterations and additions: Ca. 1890-93, a 60' brick addition extended the building back to the alley. Phillip and Myer Klevan, who established their retail shoe business on the first floor in 1923, altered the facade and the interior in 1929, doubling the size of the selling floor and enlarging the window display area. In 1941, their enlargements again doubled the size of the selling floor. Renovations in 1946 included a new storefront and an entirely new face on the building. (Wolf, 471) Subsequent commercial enterprises have changed the storefronts several

times.

A restoration in the 1980s added a new first-floor storefront with a cast-metal cornice and mauve kick plates. A secondary entrance in the center of the 13th Street facade was bricked up.

B. Historical Context:

The building was constructed for Clement Jaggard (d. 1890) one of Altoona's most prominent merchants and landholders. Jaggard was the son-in-law of PRR Director John Wright, the civil engineer who laid out the town of Altoona. Wright, who remained in Philadelphia, employed Jaggard as his resident agent in the disposition of all town lots. Jaggard lived on the East Side at 1411 6th Ave., but most of his commercial enterprises were on the opposite side of the railroad tracks. In 1851, he began business in a modest frame building on 10th Avenue between 13th and 14th streets. By the time of his death in 1890, however, his vast land holdings had grown to include contiguous brick offices at Nos. 1300-02, 1304-06-08 and 1309-11; a frame store at 1508 11th Ave., and several lots on 10th Avenue, in addition to his properties on the East Side.¹ In the 1880s, No. 1304 housed a musical instruments store; No. 1306, a novelty store and the offices of the YMCA on the second floor; and No. 1308 had a restaurant. In 1894, the Jaggard Building had three stores on the first floor and the offices of the Railroad "Y" on the second. The third floor was devoted to the Mountain City Business College. By 1916, however, the Railroad "Y" occupied the entire second floor and had its gymnasium on the third.²

The Railroad Men's Christian Association established a reading room on the second floor of the Jaggard Building on March 16, 1876. It was the second of its kind in the country; the first was founded in Tyrone, Pennsylvania, a few years earlier. This interest in Christian benevolence coincided with a general wave of religious enthusiasm that swept through the city between 1875 and 1876, following the national panic of 1873. Like the YMCA, the Railroad "Y" provided recreational facilities and activities as well as educational programs and materials for its members. Railroad management represented the association as the moral alternative to saloons and the halls of the railroad brotherhoods and fraternal lodges. Throughout the nineteenth century, however, membership in the "Y" was contingent upon two factors: being employed by the PRR and belonging to one of Altoona's evangelical, Protestant churches. The "Y" moved to new quarters at 1220 8th Ave. in the late 1920s.

Most of the people in Altoona know this building as the Klevan Building, after Phillip and Myer Klevan's retail shoe business, which operated from 1923 until the 1960s.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The three-story, red-brick building has flat wall surfaces with no ornamentation other than splayed lintels and a projecting metal cornice.
2. Condition of fabric: Good. The brick has been sandblasted and repointed during a recent restoration.

¹Tax assessments for Clement Jaggard's estate, 1890, Blair County Courthouse, Hollidaysburg. His properties in the Third Ward alone were valued at \$81,500.

²City directories, 1880-1920, *passim*.

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B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The three-story, rectangular brick building measures approximately 42' (six bays on 11th Avenue) x 120' (ten bays on 13th Street).
2. Foundations: Not visible.
3. Walls: The flat, red-brick walls have no surface ornamentation other than splayed lintels above the windows on the street and avenue facades. There is a subtle, vertical seam on the 13th Street facade where the ca. 1890 addition was joined to the older part of the building.
4. Structural systems, framing: The building has brick-bearing walls laid in common bond. The oldest part of the roof (over the southwest portion of the building) is framed with common rafters and a ridge board running parallel to 13th Street; the rest of the building has a flat roof with wood joists reinforced with steel beams.
5. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The primary entrance at the corner of 11th Avenue and 13th Street is recessed behind two cast-metal arches supported by two piers and one freestanding Doric column. A secondary entrance at the alley end of the 13th Street facade provides access to the rear of the building.
 - b. Windows: The windows have flat arches and splayed brick lintels on the street and avenue facades. Although some of the windows have been replaced with larger ones, the lintels remain a constant size. New windows with fixed sash were installed during the recent renovation.
6. Roof:
 - a. Shape: A low-pitched roof remains over the front portion of the building closest to 13th Street. A flat roof covers the rest of the building, creating an irregular surface.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: There is a modillioned metal cornice on both the street and avenue facades.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Stairways: A new steel stairway rises along the southwest wall of the building, in a renovated stairwell. It is only accessible from the rear of No. 1302.
2. Flooring: New tile floors and carpeting in the store and visitors' center; pine sub-flooring on the second and third floors with layers of old linoleum in some spots. On the third floor, the YMCA's basketball floor is still intact on the alley end. A 1911 photograph shows multi-colored linoleum covering the second-floor offices of the Railroad "Y".
3. Wall and ceiling finish: The renovated first floor has been refinished with new materials, while the framing systems are exposed on the second and third floors; evidence of early plaster and lath remain on the joists. In the 1911 photograph, the walls of the second floor offices were papered with bold, multi-colored Victorian wallpapers.

4. Openings: No early doors or windows survive.
 5. Mechanical systems: The Klevan brothers installed air conditioning in their shoe store in 1938. The heating, lighting and plumbing systems are all new.
- D. Site: The Jaggard Building stands at the northwest corner of 13th Street and 11th Avenue, facing southeast.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Original architectural drawings: None located.
- B. Early views: Photograph of the Pennsylvania Railroad YMCA secretary's office in 1911 showing J. H. Aukerman at his desk. Altoona Mirror library.
- C. Bibliography:
 1. Primary sources:

Altoona, Pennsylvania. New York: Sanborn Map and Publishing Co., Ltd., 1888.

Aukerman, H. "Christian Association Has Outgrown Rooms." Altoona Tribune, (15 January 1916).

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Insurance Maps of Altoona, Pennsylvania. New York: Sanborn-Perris Co., 1894.

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Map of the City of Altoona, Blair County, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: H. E. Kaufman, 1882.
 2. Secondary sources:

Africa, J. Simpson. History of Huntingdon and Blair Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: Louis H. Evarts, 1883.

Clark, Charles B. Illustrated Altoona. Altoona: Privately printed, 1896.

History of the First Twenty-Five Years of the Work of the Pennsylvania Railroad YMCA of Altoona, Pa. Altoona: Altoona Tribune Co., 1901.

Moore, John. History of the Railroad YMCA. New York: Association Press, 1930.

Wolf, George, ed. Blair County's First Hundred Years: 1846-1946. Altoona: The Mirror Press, 1945.
- D. Additional Sources: The March 16, 1876, editions of the Morning Tribune and Altoona Mirror were not

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available in local libraries or archives. If extant, they should be consulted for information regarding the dedication of the Railroad Men's Christian Association reading room.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of the downtown (HABS No. PA-5789) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by Nancy Spiegel in the summer of 1989 under the direction of Alison K. Hoagland, HABS historian and Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian. Spiegel's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace and Sara Amy Leach.